

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00
CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08
INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02
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FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 443
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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FROM USREP ICAO DOWNS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, ICAO, KS, UR
SUBJ: KOREAN AIRLINE FLIGHT FORCED DOWN IN USSR

1. THE FOLLOWING TASS COMMUNIQUE HAS BEEN PROVIDED TO ALL
COUNCIL MEMBERS BY THE USSR REPRESENTATIVE.
QUOTE: AS WAS REPORTED EARLIER, THE AIRSPACE OF THE USSR WAS
VIOLATED ON 20 APRIL 1978 BY A SOUTH KOREAN BOEING 707 AIRLINER.
QUOTE: AS A RESULT OF ACTION BY AIR DEFENCE FORCES THE AIRCRAFT
LANDED IN A REMOTE PART OF THE TERRITORY OF THE KARELIAN
ASSR. ALL PASSENGERS AND CREW MEMBERS WERE EVACUATED TO THE
NEAREST SETTLEMENT AND ON 23 APRIL, AT MURMANSK AIRPORT,
THEY WERE TURNED OVER TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONSULATE
GENERAL OF THE USA IN LENINGRAD AND PAN AMERICAN AIRLINES.
THEY ALL LEFT THE SOVIET UNION THE SAME DAY, WITH THE EXCEPTION
OF THE AIRCRAFT COMMANDER, KIM CHANG KIU, AND NAVIGATOR, LEE CHIN SIN

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WHO WERE DETAINED IN CONNECTION WITH THE INVESTIGATION.
QUOTE: DURING THE INVESTIGATION IT WAS ESTABLISHED THAT THE INCIDENT
WITH THE SOUTH KOREAN AIRLINER WAS A RESULT OF THE CREW'S
VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT RULES AND REFUSAL TO COMPLY
WITH A REQUEST FROM THE SOVIET AIR FORCE FIGHTER PILOTS TO
FOLLOW THEM TO AN AIRPORT AND LAND. THE AIRCRAFT COMMANDER AND
NAVIGATOR FULLY ADMITTED THEIR VIOLATION OF THE AIRSPACE

AND FRONTIERS OF THE USSR AND NON COMPLIANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT RULES. THEY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THEY HAD UNDERSTOOD THE COMMANDS FROM THE SOVIET AEROPLANES, BUT DID NOT OBEY THEM. PLEADING GUILTY UNDER SOVIET LAW, THE AIRCRAFT COMMANDER AND NAVIGATOR APPEALED IN WRITING TO THE PRESIDIUM OF THE SUPREME SOVIET OF THE USSR FOR A PARDON.

QUOTE: CONSIDERING THE FACT THAT KIM CHANG KIU AND LEE CHIN SIN HAVE ADMITTED THEIR GUILT AND REPENTED, AND BASING ITSELF ON HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES, THE PRESIDIUM OF THE SUPREME SOVIET OF THE USSR HAS DECIDED NOT TO HOLD KIM CHANG KIU AND LEE CHIN SIN CRIMINALLY RESPONSIBLE, BUT TO RESTRICT ITSELF TO EXPELLING THEM FROM THE SOVIET UNION. UNQUOTE.

HARPER

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Message Attributes

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